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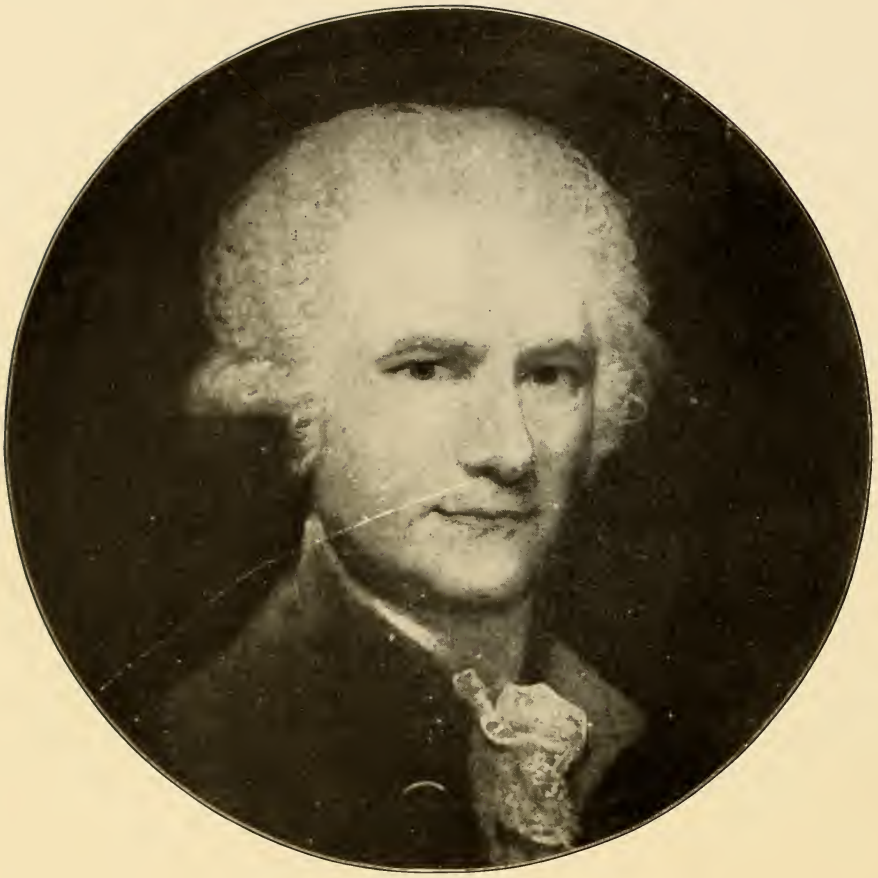
HORNE TOOKE MEMORIAL

ST. MARY'S CHURCH, EALING

MEMORIAL TO JOHN HORNE TOOKE UNVEILED BY THE NEW ENGLAND SOCIETY OF BROOKLYN, N. Y., IN ST. MARY'S CHURCH, EALING, ENGLAND, JUNE 17, 1919, WITH INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT, ADDRESSES AND PRESS REPORTS COMPILED BY HARRINGTON PUTNAM

The New England Society of Brooklyn
June, 1920



JOHN HORNE TOOKE

Boston
AUG 14 1920

MASS
TGN

THE NEW ENGLAND SOCIETY OF BROOKLYN

INTRODUCTION

TO this Society all associations with Lexington Green and Concord Bridge on April 19, 1775, are forever sacred. We would not forget, however, the sympathy from London for this bold stand for the rights of Englishmen in her colonies, a fellow-feeling which has not before been sufficiently recognized in this country.

The generous subscription to the Lexington victims had been overlooked, perhaps, because of the hostilities that ensued. But the event was specially significant. The expression of pity and aid for these first victims came from a representative body of believers in liberty, who were known in London as the "Constitutional Society."

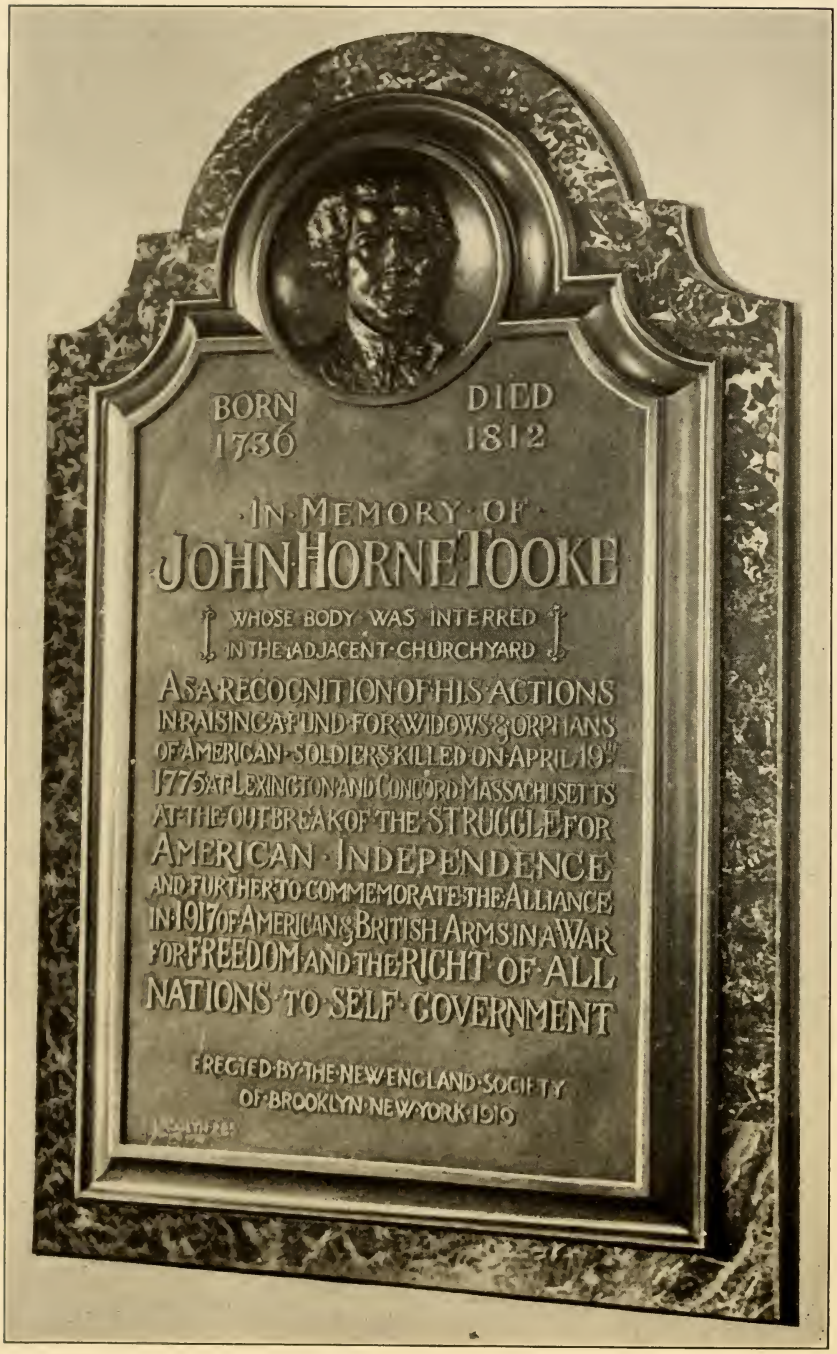
Even before the conflict at Lexington, and as early as April 10, 1775, the corporation of the City of London drew up a petition praying for the removal of Lord North and his cabinet "for their iniquitous measures" with respect to their fellow-subjects in America. The Lord Mayor led a civic procession to St. James to present this officially. In response King George the Third said that "he was struck with astonishment that any part of his subjects should encourage the rebellious disposition which prevailed in some of his colonies." *

The news of the encounter at Lexington did not make hopeless the wish for a constitutional adjustment. Many English still looked for conciliatory action by the British Government. An account of the engagement was prepared and forwarded to England by a committee appointed by the Provincial Congress in which a narrative, in terms studiously moderate, was given of the conflict. Capt. Derby of Salem was sent in a special vessel to deliver the paper into the hands of the London agent of Massachusetts. It was, however, later (about May 29) that the facts appeared in the public prints of London, setting forth the extent of the battle and the serious British losses in the retreat, so grave as almost to make vain any hope thereafter of a peaceful reconciliation. Nevertheless Rev. John Horne (as his name then was) was moved to take public action toward reconciliation with the American colonies. The touching raising of £100 at King's Arms Tavern, Cornhill, with Horne's publication of this subscription, made a stir throughout London.

On July 14th there appeared in the London Press a second notification from Parson Horne, that he had paid to Messrs. Brownes and Collison, on account of Dr. Franklin, the sum of £50 from the moneys raised, "for the relief of the widows, orphans or aged parents of our beloved American fellow-subjects"—with a repeated reference to the affair at Lexington.

On the next day, July 15, 1775, another and a more pressing appeal came to the King from the Corporation of the City of London, represented by the Lord Mayor, some of the Aldermen, the Sheriff and Commons of the City, to remonstrate at the grievous plight of their fellow-subjects in America. The address read by the Recorder to the King, stated: "The characteristic of the people, Sire, over whom you reign, has ever been equally remarked by an unparalleled loyalty to their sovereign, whilst the principles of the constitution have been the rule of his government, as well as a firm opposition whenever their rights have been invaded. Your American subjects, Royal Sir, descend from the same ancestors

* Bleackley, Life of Wilkes, London, 1917, p. 291.


BORN
1736
DIED
1812
IN MEMORY OF
JOHN HORNE TOOKE
WHOSE BODY WAS INTERRED
IN THE ADJACENT CHURCHYARD
AS A RECOGNITION OF HIS ACTIONS
IN RAISING A FUND FOR WIDOWS & ORPHANS
OF AMERICAN SOLDIERS KILLED ON APRIL 19TH
1775 AT LEXINGTON AND CONCORD MASSACHUSETTS
AT THE OUTBREAK OF THE STRUGGLE FOR
AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE
AND FURTHER TO COMMEMORATE THE ALLIANCE
IN 1917 OF AMERICAN & BRITISH ARMS IN A WAR
FOR FREEDOM AND THE RIGHT OF ALL
NATIONS TO SELF GOVERNMENT
ERECTED BY THE NEW ENGLAND SOCIETY
OF BROOKLYN NEW YORK 1919

Born 1739 Died 1812

In Memory of

JOHN HORNE TOOKE

Whose body was interred in the adjacent churchyard

AS A RECOGNITION OF HIS ACTIONS IN RAISING A FUND FOR WIDOWS AND ORPHANS OF AMERICAN SOLDIERS KILLED ON APRIL 19, 1775, AT LEXINGTON AND CONCORD, MASSACHUSETTS, AT THE OUTBREAK OF THE STRUGGLE FOR AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE AND FURTHER TO COMMEMORATE THE ALLIANCE IN 1917 OF AMERICAN AND BRITISH ARMS IN A WAR FOR FREEDOM AND THE RIGHT OF ALL NATIONS TO SELF GOVERNMENT.

Erected by the

NEW ENGLAND SOCIETY
OF BROOKLYN, NEW YORK
1919

with ourselves, appear equally jealous of the prerogatives of freemen, without which they cannot deem themselves happy." *

The seven years' struggles of the American Revolution inevitably clouded the recollection of these acts of friendship and sympathy.

Horne was tried for criminal libel before Lord Mansfield and a jury in 1777. The trial brought out an interesting affidavit from Captain Edward Thoroton Gould of the Fourth Regiment of foot, who had been taken prisoner at the attack on Concord Bridge. The affidavit concluded with the statement that deponent was "now treated with the greatest humanity and taken all possible care of by the provincials of Medford." (Rex v. Horne, Cowper Rep. 672, 678.) It appears that this Captain Gould eloped with the daughter of the Earl of Essex, and the pair riding over the border, were married by the blacksmith of Gretna Green! (Rogers, Sherwood Forest, pp. 203, 204.) The Horne trial also raised nice points in the law of criminal libel, so that Lord Mansfield remarked of Thurlow's formal information against Horne: "I fancy the Attorney General was surprised with the objection."

In the end, however, Horne was fined £200, with a year's imprisonment, which conviction was affirmed on appeal.

In the Hancock House at Lexington appears, over the fireplace, a tablet commemorating this donation to the Lexington sufferers. An account of the Horne benefaction by Rev. C. A. Staples is found in volume 4 of the Proceedings of the Lexington Historical Society.

It is now recognized as a historical fact that at the date of the battle of Lexington the people of the City of London, as distinguished from the Tory landowning class, favored the American colonies.† Indeed, Sir George Otto Trevelyan, in his American Revolution, maintains that the majority of Englishmen then had an attitude of friendship to the colonies, and were opposed to North's coercive measures.

The entry into the great European War in which this country was taking up arms alongside the forces of the mother country, seemed a fitting occasion to commemorate this sympathy from London for Lexington in her first struggle.

The New England Society in the City of Brooklyn, in 1917, voted to acknowledge this courageous liberality of a benefactor, who had suffered so much for his sentiments.

Through the kind and most indefatigable efforts of Mr. Henry J. Brown, long the partner of the late Benjamin Franklin Stevens, and now Stevens' successor in London, the *data* was obtained of Horne Tooke's death and burial in the churchyard of St. Mary's Parish Church in Ealing. Although suburban to London, being nine miles west of St. Paul's, Ealing is a separate residential municipality of Middlesex County.

After the appointment of Ambassador Davis this memorial was made the subject of the following letter from President Boody of the New England Society:

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* Treloar, Wilkes and the City of London, 1917 (p. 168).

† Yet even among the landed aristocracy were many supporters of the Americans. Few, however, were so outspoken as Thomas Coke, first Earl of Leicester of Holkam, a descendant of the Lord Chief Justice under King James. He did not scruple to say boldly: "Every night during the American war, did I drink the health of General Washington as the greatest man on earth." Stirling, Life of Coke of Norfolk, p. 117, ed. 1912.

December 28, 1918

Hon. John W. Davis, Ambassador London:

Dear Sir—The New England Society of Brooklyn has voted to acknowledge a contribution in 1775 from London to the widows and orphans of those killed at the Battle of Lexington, by erecting a memorial to Horne Tooke, who at a public meeting in June, 1775, took up subscriptions to the amount of £100. By leave of the church authorities we have restored his tomb in the churchyard of St. Mary's Church at Ealing.

Our society has voted to donate to the British Orphans Fund £100, as a return of that generous gift then made from London. Mr. Henry J. Brown (of the London house of B. F. Stevens & Brown), has energetically taken up the matter with the Rev. C. J. Sharp, Vicar of Ealing. Mr. Newton Crane of our London Embassy, who had been active in the Franklin tablet, commissioned the artist to design for us a portrait tablet. Such preparations are completed that the unveiling can be now had.

May I, on behalf of our society, formally ask that you will speak for us at this coming occasion? We should be further honored if, through your personal influence, Mr. Asquith or some English speaker like him, could be induced to participate as representing the present view of London both of the national *entente* and regarding the past differences that led to our Revolution.

Our society intended by such a function to recall the fact that the liberal minded of London then sympathized with those killed at Lexington.

The tablet within the church is to have this legend:

(The inscription was then quoted.)

Your predecessor, Dr. Page, had interested himself in this proposed unveiling, and we believe, had his health permitted, was prepared to officiate in the final ceremony. We therefore hope that from your many engagements you can spare time to make the address on behalf of our society and thereby give effect to our efforts to recall London's generosity to the earliest victims in our own struggles for liberty. If you communicate with Mr. Brown of B. F. Stevens & Brown, he will give you details and arrange for a date to suit your convenience. I am, dear Mr. Davis, with great respect,

Yours obediently,

DAVID A. BOODY, President.

Rev. C. J. Sharp, Vicar of St. Mary's, responded to our suggestion of a memorial; permission therefor was voted by the Church Vestry, which was followed by a "faculty" for such a tablet granted by the bishop of London. Horne Tooke's remains were in a flat altar tomb, surrounded by iron railings that after a century were in some disrepair. The restoration of this the New England Society also undertook. In the church was erected a memorial bronze tablet, set in a frame of gray marble, designed by Lieutenant L. F. Roslyn of the Royal Air Force, who is also one of the Royal Society of British Sculptors. At the top is an artistic medallion head from Horne Tooke's portrait in the National Portrait Gallery.

The American Ambassador entered with interest into the arrangements for the unveiling ceremony. Ealing being a rural suburb, the middle of June was proposed in the hope for favorable weather. Eventually the seventeenth of June, 1919, was fixed upon, however, without any intention to mark the anniversary of Bunker Hill! After the Ambassador had prepared his address, he was prevented from attending.* In this situation, when the invitations had been sent, Consul General Skinner was impressed into service, as he kindly consented to read the Ambassador's address.

The Society was most fortunate in the presence of Right Honorable Augustine Birrell, who expressed the thanks of Great Britain. On the printed program was next an address by the Mayor of Ealing.

The Directors of the New England Society, however, had voted to donate a check for £100 for the local war orphans. But on account of delay of mails this had not been disclosed in advance. The presentation of this sum came as a surprise, so that its unexpectedness proved a happy climax to the church ceremonies.

Mr. Lafayette H. de Friese, an American lawyer, resident in London, kindly acted for the Society in making this presentation. His brief address was most favorably received.

A personal letter written June 19th, said: "The service itself was most inspiring. Many of the school children of Ealing were in the galleries of the church, and as they had been trained to sing the hymns, the singing was uplifting and thrilling. The body of the church was practically full. The Mayor and Corporation attended in their robes, and quite a number of leading Americans were present."

After the exercises within the church, and the procession to the churchyard, there was a lawn party at the Vicarage, at which some three hundred people were present. The weather proved as fine as a June day in America.

Appended is also the formal acknowledgment to the Society from the Ealing officials.

The speech by the brilliant author of *Obiter Dicta* unfortunately was not reported. In an application for a copy, Mr. Birrell sent a clipping from the *Morning Post*† which is printed on page 22.

If we have any regrets it must be that the Society has missed a single word from the gifted essayist, author and orator whom, as a speaker, Sir Frank Newbolt ranks as "*facile princeps*" adding, of Birrell, "His heaven-sent gift is that he never says anything dull, even in a law lecture." (The Nineteenth Century, August, 1918, p. 257.)

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* Mr. Davis had been honored by an invitation to luncheon at Ascot by the King—which was equivalent to a command.

† Mr. Birrell on September 12, 1919, wrote thus.

"The only record I have of the Horne Tooke memorial is the enclosed cutting from the *Morning Post* [see page 22] and apart from it I can recall nothing of what I said, except the recollection that it was worth nothing.

"On the other hand, the American Ambassador's Address was very interesting. The cheque inside was most dramatic, unexpected, and moving. I advise you to cut my observations down to one line. Thank you for the *Landmark*. The best sketch of Horne Tooke is to be found in Hazlitt's "Spirit of the Age."

Yours most sincerely

Augustine Birrell

Announcement of the Unveiling

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION

Presidents

AMERICAN: The Hon. W. H. TAFT.

BRITISH: The Right Hon. A. J. BALFOUR, O.M.

The American Ambassador will unveil on Tuesday, June 17th, at 3.30 p. m., the Memorial Tablet which has been erected in St. Mary's Parish Church, Ealing, by the New England Society of Brooklyn, N. Y., in memory of John Horne Tooke (whose tomb in the adjacent churchyard has also been repaired) in recognition of his actions in raising a fund for widows and orphans of American soldiers killed on April 10th, 1775, at Lexington and Concord, Massachusetts, at the outbreak of the Struggle for American Independence, and, further, to commemorate the Alliance in 1917 of American and British Arms in a war for freedom and the right of all nations to self-government.

The Right Hon. Augustine Birrell will move a vote of thanks to the Ambassador and acknowledge on behalf of Great Britain this expression of international goodwill.

It is hoped that as many members as possible will attend the ceremony. St. Mary's Church, Ealing, is situated between Ealing Broadway and South Ealing (Hounslow Line) Stations on the District Railway. Motor omnibuses from both stations pass the church.

G. MILLS McKAY

Hon. Organizing Secretary

June 6th, 1919

Consul General Hon. ROBERT P. SKINNER

Programme

EALING PARISH CHURCH

UNVEILING OF MEMORIAL

—TO—

JOHN HORNE TOOKE

On TUESDAY, JUNE 17th, 1919, at 3.30 p. m.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Opening Hymn:

Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory of the Coming of the Lord
Julia Ward Howe

Prayer by Rev. W. Garrett Horder.

Statement by the Vicar.

The Unveiling of the Memorial and Address by the Ambassador.

The Right Hon. Augustine Birrell will thank the Ambassador on behalf of Great Britain.

The Mayor will thank the Ambassador on behalf of the Borough of Ealing.

Hymn:

My Country, 'Tis of Thee
Samuel Francis Smith

The Rural Dean will pronounce the Benediction.

A Procession will be formed to visit the Grave; meanwhile the following Hymn will be sung:

Once to Every Man and Nation.
J. Russell Lowell

C. J. SHARP, *Vicar of Ealing*
W. J. ORDISH, W. T. WHITE, *Churchwardens of St. Mary's, Ealing*
L. BEAN, W. E. FOUND, *Churchwardens of All Saints, Ealing*
J. S. KING, *Mayor of Ealing*

Right Honorable AUGUSTINE BIRRELL

ADDRESS OF REV. C. J. SHARP.

The Vicar explained that John Horne was a parson of Brentford, where his elder brother was a market gardener. He was a character, this parson, but like many other characters not exactly a man of peace. He made many enemies, and a good many friends, from one of whom he derived his last name. Since his death the number of his friends had increased, and they were now numerous in America. He was a learned philologist, a pioneer of the science. He was one of the last parsons to sit as a parson in the House of Commons. In his own estimation he had long ceased to be a parson, but the law of that time was that once a parson always a parson; and although there were other parsons in the House of Commons, the arrival there of Horne Tooke was the signal for action which resulted in the imposition of clerical disabilities still in force. The Vicar explained that in his opinion that sort of action was the wrong way to fight clericalism; the right way was to insist that parsons were men, and to allow them to take part in the government of their town and country. Horne Tooke had also tried to become a lawyer, but the lawyers would not have him, although he was unusually well qualified for the profession, and more than once gained notable triumphs by his legal knowledge. But all this was domestic business. The Americans were not commemorating Horne Tooke because of his learning or his combats with the legal profession and the House of Commons. They were doing honor to his memory because that he, living in the old country, sympathized with the colonial point of view. They also desired to record the passing away of old feuds between parents and their offspring, and to help to cement the alliance between Great Britain and the United States, which, recruited from many countries, has now become the greatest of all the free communities.

In conclusion, the Vicar referred to Horne Tooke's mixed character, saying that most of us had a mixture of good and bad in us, although some were more harmoniously blended than others. He reminded the audience of Wordsworth's words, written in recollection of the grave of Robert Burns:

"The best of what we do and are,
Just God, forgive!"

ADDRESS OF AMBASSADOR DAVIS.

Read by Consul General Robert P. Skinner

By this modest tablet and this simple ceremonial the New England Society of Brooklyn, and we who are here assembled, pay tribute to the memory of a man long since dead who played no inconspicuous part in the activities of his time. His long life of seventy-seven years was one of incessant activity during which he addressed himself in turn to theology, medicine, law, agriculture, linguistics and statecraft. With a love of combat and a genius for controversy he passed from one conflict to another, and challenged in turn the courts, the parliament, and even the Crown itself. So fierce were the controversies in which he engaged and so ruthless was he when the fight was on that his enemies were always more powerful than his friends and successfully prevented not only his

attainment of any high public office, but even his admission as a private citizen to the practice of the law. Twice he was convicted for criminal libel, once burnt in effigy in the City of London, twice defeated as a candidate for the House of Commons and when finally elected to that body disqualified by special act because of his former membership in the clergy. Finally tried for treason and triumphantly acquitted, he achieved the rare distinction of dividing all who knew him into two distinct classes as friends or enemies—equally zealous no matter to which class they might belong.

But those who erect this Tablet to his memory have seen fit to pass over many great events in which he bore a part, and have chosen to preserve in lasting brass his action in collecting funds for the relief of certain widows and orphans suddenly bereft of their natural protectors. It was a generous and a kindly thing to do, and yet many men have done as much and have received no more than a passing notice; and many acts of greater merit in point of charity alone have no record save in the great book of final remembrance. What is it then that sets this deed apart from others of its kind and makes this gathering of British and Americans today a fit and proper thing?

For the answer to this question we must look back through the vista of 144 years to the 19th day of April, 1775, when at Lexington and Concord the smouldering passion and resentment of the Colonists of Massachusetts burst into open flame. It was the opening gun of a Civil War destined to last for eight long years; not the first, nor unhappily the last conflict of that kind, to occur among men of English speech. It was a war which was to divide families, to separate men in thought and feeling from their neighbors, to sunder the political tie between the old and the new and to change the course of the world more perhaps than even now we know. In such wars there can be no neutrals. In the time of the Roses, all England was either York or Lancaster. In the days of the Commonwealth, man could be only Puritan or Cavalier. In the great Revolution, men were either Whig or Jacobite; and when the war of American Independence came on there was a sharp cleavage, both in England and in America, between those who were for and those who were against the Colonies.

For Horne Tooke neutrality on any subject was impossible, least of all in a controversy of this character. He himself declared that he had entered into an engagement shortly after he was born, "To oppose by all the means in my power oppression and tyranny in whatever shape they present themselves." And when the guns rang out in April, 1775, his choice was already made. Four years earlier he had organized his "Society for Supporting the Bill of Rights," and among the instructions which he prepared for candidates whom that Society would endorse was one directing the candidates "To endeavor to restore to America the essential right of taxation by representatives of their own free election; repealing the Acts passed in violation of that right since the year 1763 and the universal excise so notoriously incompatible with every principle of British liberty which has been lately substituted in the Colonies for the laws of customs." It was but natural, therefore, that when the "Society for Supporting the Bill of Rights" had been succeeded by one

which was called "The Society for Constitutional Information," that the latter should at the King's Arms Tavern, Cornhill, 1775, take under the guidance of Horne Tooke the action which this Tablet is intended to commemorate. Let me read the record of that day's proceedings:

"King's Arms Tavern, Cornhill

June 7, 1775

"At a special meeting, this day, of several members of the Constitutional Society, during an adjournment, a gentleman proposed that a subscription should be immediately entered into (by such of the members present who might approve the purpose), for raising the sum of one hundred pounds, to be applied to the relief of the widows, orphans, and aged parents, of our beloved American fellow-subjects, who, faithful to the character of *Englishmen*, preferring death to slavery, were, for that reason only, inhumanly murdered by the King's troops at or near Lexington and Concord, in the province of Massachusetts, on the 18th of last April; which sum being immediately collected, it was thereupon resolved, 'That Mr. Horne do pay to-morrow, into the hands of Messrs. Brownes and Collinson, on account of Dr. Franklin, the said sum of one hundred pounds; and that Dr. Franklin be requested to apply the same to the above-mentioned purpose.'

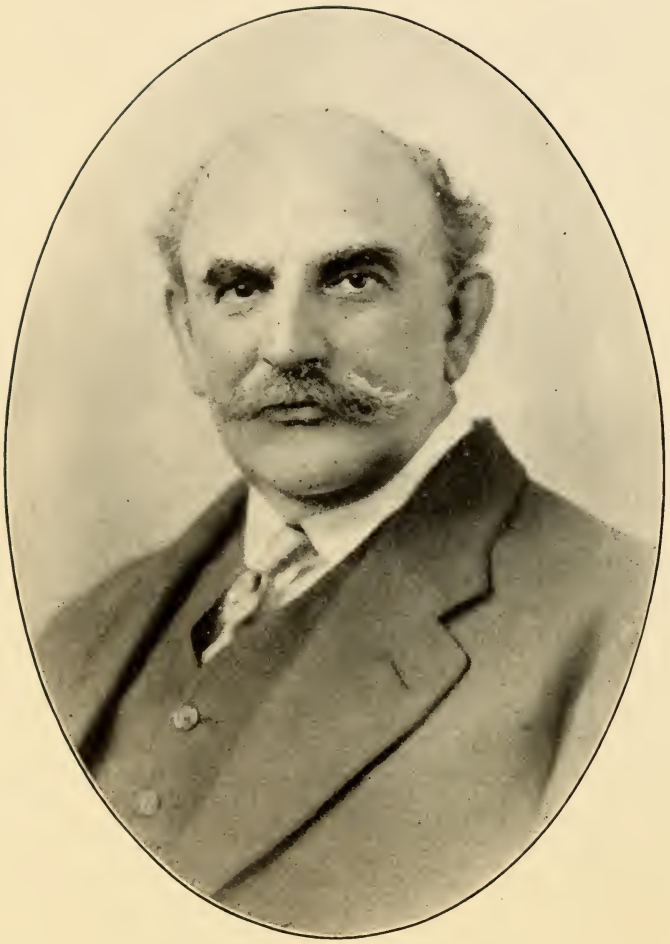
JOHN HORNE."

Others who were present hesitated to sign a Resolution couched in such terms, but Tooke seized the pen and wrote his proper name—John Horne—in token of his willingness and desire to assume full responsibility.

For the bitter language which was used in this Resolution and which was afterwards published by Tooke, with reference to the King's troops, he was arrested, tried and convicted for libel, serving a term of twelve months imprisonment and sacrificing a considerable portion of his meager fortune. But in the sentiments which he entertained towards his "beloved American fellow-subjects" he stands at the bar of history in the respectable company of Lord Chatham, William Pitt, Charles James Fox, Edmund Burke, Lords Shelburne, Richmond, Rockingham, Savile and other great Englishmen of the day who voiced in vain the thoughts and feelings of the majority of their countrymen.

And now this Tablet, having invited us to dwell upon the past, calls us back again into the living present. It reminds us that out of the events in which Horne Tooke participated there arose in the Western Hemisphere a great and independent nation formed of federated commonwealths, conceived in liberty and dedicated to the truth that all men are born free and equal. And as it has grown and prospered through the years, so also there has grown and prospered a chain of free commonwealths, so conceived and dedicated, circling the globe with English speech and Anglo-Saxon freedom. For the guns that were fired at Concord and Lexington woke to life not only the federal union of the United States of America but echoing down the corridors of the future they called into being the great self-governing Dominions of the British Empire. And today when each has learned to put in practice the lessons of the past, with civil strife forgotten and old dissensions healed, Great Britain and America make common cause against those who would assail the heritage of freedom which they have received.

Let us in this presence thank God with reverence for the victory their arms have won, and let us thank Him also that through all the changing years the cause of liberty, whether in Great Britain or America, has never lacked its champion.



Mr. LAFAYETTE H. De FRIESE

ADDRESS OF MR. LAFAYETTE H. DE FRIES.

My principal duty here today is, as the representative of the New England Society of Brooklyn, to present a cheque for £100 to be used for the aid of widows and orphans caused by the great War which we have just been through. Nearly a century and a half ago John Horne, in whose memory the Tablet in St. Mary's Church has just been erected, collected the sum of £100 and sent it through Benjamin Franklin to be applied, in his own language, "To the relief of the widows, orphans and aged parents of our beloved American fellow-subjects who, faithful to the character of Englishmen, preferring death to slavery, were for that reason only inhumanly murdered by the King's troops at or near Lexington and Concord in the province of Massachusetts Bay, in New England, in America." For this action John Horne was tried as a traitor and acquitted, but he was also tried for libel and convicted and punished.

The New England Society of Brooklyn now returns this money to be used for the benefit of widows and orphans of the present War. The instructions sent with it are that I should hand the draft, at the time of unveiling, to Ambassador Davis, to be handed over by him to such charity as he and I think most in need of funds for the aid of widows and orphans created by the great War. As the cheque has just arrived and the engagements of the Ambassador are such that I have not been able to confer with him I think it best to hand the cheque to the Rector of this Church, which I now do, to be devoted to the purpose for which the funds were sent.

I cannot leave without adding a word to the noble address in whose terms the memorial tablet has been dedicated. The occasion to me is inexpressibly tender and appealing. Nearly 150 years ago this man, not a great statesman, but a man of the people, looking down through the long vista of years, read the coming ages more clearly than those who tried and convicted him. The years have come and gone and our countries, yours the motherland and mine her daughter, have grown closer and closer together until now we are ending a vast military struggle side by side, and at its end, we meet to honor the memory of one who nearly a century and a half ago sounded the depth of those principles which bind us together. He did not live and suffer in vain. This church, and the grave in which he lies, will be a shrine to which will come, long after you and I have gone, from thousands of miles across the seas, lovers of the beautiful and the good to pay their tribute to the memory of one who was a friend of their country in the long past. And as they look upon this memorial tablet and the little grave outside a tenderness for their motherland and her people will spring up in their breasts and new links of love and affection will bind the two peoples together. You and I will part today and go our several ways, but we shall leave behind us a church and a grave which can never be the same again. If it be true, as the tender Poet of Eastern song has sung, that the roses are a brighter and more glorious red which bloom over the spot where Imperial Caesar bled, then I think that the flowers will be sweeter and the winds blow more softly and the birds will sing a tenderer song over the grave where John Horne lies in his last long sleep.

Press notices of the occasion appeared in the London dailies like the *Times*, *Post*, *Telegraph* and *Standard*, with full accounts in Middlesex weekly papers, and the monthly magazine, the *Landmark*, the official organ of the English Speaking Union.

Appended are the notices in the *Morning Post* of June 18th, *The London Graphic* of June 21st (also a subsequent description from the *Brooklyn Eagle* of July 13, 1919).

From the Morning Post

IN MEMORY OF HORNE TOOKE

TABLET IN EALING CHURCH

A memorial tablet to John Horne Tooke was unveiled in Ealing Parish Church yesterday afternoon. The ceremony was to have been performed by the American Ambassador, but in his absence his place was taken by Mr. Robert Skinner, Consul-General. The tablet, which is of bronze on a marble base, is the work of Lieutenant L. F. Roslyn, of the Royal Air Force. At the top is a medallion of Tooke, from the painting in the National Gallery, and the inscription is as follows:

Born 1736. Died 1812. In memory of John Horne Tooke (whose body was interred in the adjacent churchyard), as a recognition of his action in raising a fund for the widows and orphans of American soldiers killed on April 19, 1775, at Lexington and Concord, Massachusetts, at the outbreak of the struggle for American independence, and further to commemorate the Alliance in 1917 of American and British arms in a war for freedom and the right of all nations to self-government. Erected by the New England Society of Brooklyn and New York, 1919.

The vicar of Ealing, the Rev. C. J. Sharp, gave a short sketch of Horne Tooke's career.

The address by the American Ambassador was read by Mr. Robert Skinner.

In this address the Ambassador said that by that modest tablet and simple ceremonial they would pay tribute to the memory of a man who played no inconspicuous part in the activities of his time. His long life of seventy-six years was one of incessant activity, during which he addressed himself in turn to theology, medicine, law, agriculture, linguistics, and statecraft. With a love of combat and a genius for controversy he passed from one conflict to another and challenged in turn the Courts, Parliament, and even the Crown itself. Those who had erected the tablet had chosen to preserve in lasting remembrance his action in collecting funds for the relief of the widows and orphans of the soldiers killed at Lexington, when the smouldering passion and resentment of the Colonists of Massachusetts burst into open flame. It was the opening guns of the civil war. He went on to recall the organization by Tooke of the Society for Supporting the Bill of Rights, and referred at length to the meeting of the Society for Constitutional Information at the King's Arms Tavern in Cornhill, on June 7, 1775, when it was decided to send £100 "to be applied to the relief of the widows and orphans and aged parents of our beloved American fellow-subjects who, faithful to the character of Englishmen, preferring death to slavery, were for that reason only inhumanly murdered by the King's troops." The language was violent, he continued, but in the sentiments which Tooke entertained he stood at the bar of history in the respectable company of Lord Chatham, William Pitt, Charles James Fox, Edmund Burke, and other great Englishmen of the day, who voiced in vain the thoughts and feelings of the majority of their countrymen.

Mr. Lafayette Hoyt de Friese, President of the New England Society, on its behalf, presented a cheque for £100, in return for the money Horne Tooke sent to America, which, he said, was to be used for the benefit of the widows and orphans of those killed in the present war.

Mr. Augustine Birrell, in proposing a vote of thanks to the American Ambassador for his address, said that the £100 returned that day was an indication of the affection and esteem which now united our race and the United States. Each spoke Chatham's

language, but it was very easy to be disagreeable in Chatham's tongue. Therefore he begged them on all occasions, whether with tongue or pen, to avoid not only insulting language, as that, he trusted, would be out of the question, but irritating language also. Englishmen and Americans had thin skins, and they were thin in different places, so that what annoyed an American would not annoy us, and what annoyed us an American would pass over.

The Mayor of Ealing thanked the Ambassador on behalf of the burgesses, and the ceremony concluded with a pilgrimage to the grave of Horne Tooke in the neighbouring churchyard

London Graphic, June 21, 1919

TIME AND JOHN HORNE TOOKE

St. Mary's Parish Church, Ealing, witnessed a strange ceremony on Tuesday, when a tablet presented by the New England Society of Brooklyn, New York, to the memory of John Horne Tooke was unveiled, under the auspices of the English-speaking Union, by the American Ambassador, and accepted on behalf of this country by Mr. Birrell. Tooke is remembered by scholars for his curious essay in philology, "The Diversions of Purley," but America loves him for having proposed the raising of a fund in England for the widows and orphans of American soldiers killed on April 10, 1775, at Lexington and Concord, Massachusetts, on the outbreak of the struggle for American independence. The proposal was at once kind-hearted and ill-advised, and in 1777 Tooke was brought before Lord Mansfield, fined £200 and imprisoned for a year. Much water has passed his native Westminster since that time. America has forgotten the old bitterness; hence this commemoration in the parish church of Ealing.

Born in 1736, the son of a well-to-do Westminster poulterer (named Horne), Tooke had an adventurous career. He went to Westminster, Eton and Cambridge, and took holy orders, but did not long remain an active minister of the Church. His excellent parts were appreciated by Voltaire and Sterne, and also by Wilkes, for whom he fought loyally until he contrived to quarrel with him. He plunged into politics, and he stood twice for Westminster without being returned; once he was returned for Old Sarum, only to be excluded after a few months by a special Act preventing clerks in holy orders from sitting in Parliament. Needless to say that he was always up against constituted authority.

At one time he was summoned to the bar of the House of Commons for attacking the Speaker. At the age of fifty-eight he came into active conflict with the Government. He was a leader of the Corresponding Society, a body which professed sympathy with the revolutionary spirit in France, and when in 1794 there was panic in England, and the Government feared the growth of disaffection, he, together with Hardy and Thelwall was brought to trial on a charge of high treason, but acquitted. In 1786 he published "The Diversions of Purley," which brought him repute as a philologist. It is a book of which everyone has talked from that day to this, but few have read, though no "gentleman's library" is complete without it. He was always hospitably inclined, and, being the happy possessor of considerable means, was able to indulge his taste by entertaining on a large scale at his house at Wimbledon, where came much of the best intellectual society of the day, from Erskine to Tom Paine.

LEWIS MELVILLE.

From the Brooklyn Eagle

HOW ENGLAND AND AMERICA JOIN HEARTS IN CEREMONY HONORING JOHN HORNE TOOKE

Impressive Services in Ealing, England, at Unveiling of Memorial Tablet Presented to St. Mary's Church by New England Society of Brooklyn

By EDWARD V. RIIS

Truly times change the vision and dispel old animosities, even the bitterest. The passage of 144 years has worked a revolution in the minds of men. In 1775 sturdy New England farmers, flaming of eye, hot musket in hand, faced British redcoats across the soft green turf of Lexington common. Who among them would have dared to dream that the day would come when Englishmen and Americans would clasp hands over the grave of an English parson who elected to champion the cause of the colonists, who raised £100 for the relief of the American women and children left widows and orphans by that fight.

Yet over the grave of John Horne Tooke, at St. Mary's Church, Ealing, in the new day when men have seen a light which has broadly illumined their pathway and the era of the brotherhood has drawn a little closer, there occurred a moving service on June 17 last. In this church on British soil, not far from London, a memorial tablet was unveiled in honor of Tooke. It was presented to the church by the New England Society of Brooklyn. Furthermore, the Brooklyn society performed a delicate courtesy. It raised a sum of the same amount as that raised by the Rev. Mr. Tooke and presented it to the fund for the widows, orphans and aged parents of those who fell in the great war. Thus the account was wiped off the slate. John Horne Tooke could hardly have looked for a happier sequel to the story of which he wrote the first stirring chapter.

One hundred and forty-two years ago the Rev. John Horne Tooke went to prison for criminal libel against the King. On June 17, 1919, in the soft mellow afternoon of an English churchyard, Britons and Americans lifted their voices in singing Julia Ward's "Battle Hymn of the Republic," which emanated from the soul of a woman who saw the new day dawning. They also sang "My Country, 'Tis of Thee," and after that "God Save the King." It was a symbol of the binding anew of the ties connecting the English-speaking peoples.

English newspapers recounted the event with sympathy, and R. P. Skinner, Consul General of the United States, taking the place of the American Ambassador, who had been summoned to meet the King at Ascot, stressed this paragraph of the Ambassador's prepared address which was read for him:

"The guns that were fired at Concord and Lexington woke to life not only the federal union of the United States of America, but, echoing down the corridors of the future, called into being the great self-governing dominions of the British Empire. And today, when each had learned to put in practice the lessons of the past with civil strife forgotten and old dissensions healed, Great Britain and America made common cause against those who would assail the heritage of freedom which they had received."

Aside from this the service was an inspiring one. The school children of Ealing were assembled in the galleries of the church. They had been especially trained to sing the hymns. The Mayor and Corporation attended in full robes of office. Representative citizens of Ealing touched elbows with leading Americans.

The Right Hon. Augustine Birrell was present and delivered an eloquent oration, in which he said that henceforth England and America would stand together in the interests of humanity and never more draw sword, one against the other. Finally, James Russell Lowell's magnificent ode was sung, beginning:

Once to every man and nation
Comes the moment to decide,
In the strife of truth with falsehood,
For the good or evil side;
Some great cause, God's new Messiah,
Offering each the bloom or blight,
And the choice goes by forever
'Twixt that darkness and that light

So in the green churchyard of Ealing with the rays of the June sun falling like a benediction on grass blade and clinging vine, amid the song of birds, the blood that stained the common of Lexington was wiped away as sons of nations once at strife clasped hands in amity and peace over the grave of one who dared to stand for a principle. And men thought that no better symbol could be desired as a herald of the day when the brotherhood of man shall be the human race.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH

Procession Leaving the Church. Behind the Churchwardens are Consul General Skinner and Right Hon. Augustine Birrell.

Procession at the Tomb of Horne Tooke

Acknowledgment from officials of Ealing

Town Hall, Ealing W.
10th July, 1919

Mr. Lafayette Hoyte de Friese
Queen Anne's Mansions
St. James's Park, S. W.

Dear Sir:

We desire on behalf of the Committee of the Ealing War Memorial ("The Fund of the Grateful Hearts"), to ask you to convey to the New England Society our sincere thanks for their handsome gift of £100 in memory of John Horne Tooke.

The object of the Fund of the Grateful Hearts is to ameliorate the lot of those here who have suffered in and through the War, and particularly to give a good start in life to children whose fathers have been killed or incapacitated and we hope that you will think it happy—as we ourselves do—that your gift arising out of that unhappy War which separated our peoples, should, by its application to this fund be associated with the War in which, fighting side by side for the common good of all mankind, they have achieved what we hope and pray may prove a real and lasting union.

With renewed thanks and with the most sincere expression of esteem,

We are,

Yours faithfully,

John King, Mayor
Henry Walter Peal, Chairman of the Executive Committee
John C. Fuller, Hon. Treasurer
Leonard Bean, Hon. Secretary

Resolution of New England Society of Brooklyn
October 2, 1919

The Directors of the New England Society of Brooklyn adopt the following minute:

This Society records its sense of deep appreciation of the painstaking help and wise advice of Mr. Henry J. Brown, of London, throughout the long continued preparations for the Horne Tooke Memorial, set up on June 17th last in Ealing. His careful plans and personal intervention overcame our successive difficulties. He arranged that the Society's purpose should be completed in the presence of distinguished representatives of both countries, so that the occasion attracted wide public interest and has helped to promote international friendship.

The Society gratefully enters this acknowledgement upon its minutes, and directs that a copy be sent to Mr. Brown.

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